

unwise step on the part of the Government. But I most earnestly urge upon you that there shall be no halt made by the troops in this city.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

TH. H. HICKS.

STATE OF MARYLAND, }  
*Executive Chamber, Annapolis, April 23, 1861.* }

*To Brig. Gen. B. F. Butler:*

Sir: Having, in pursuance of the powers vested in me by the Constitution of Maryland, summoned the Legislature of the State to assemble on Friday, the 26th instant; and Annapolis being the place in which, according to law, it must assemble; and having been credibly informed that you have taken military possession of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Railroad, I deem it my duty to protest against this step; because, without at present assigning any other reason, I am informed that such occupancy of said road will prevent the members of the Legislature from reaching this city.

Very respectfully, yours,

THOS. H. HICKS.

SEAL OF THE STATE OF }  
 MASSACHUSETTS. }  
 HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE, }  
 UNITED STATES MILITIA, }  
*Annapolis, Md, April 23, 1861.* }

*To His Excellency Thos. H. Hicks,*

*Governor of Maryland.*

You are credibly informed that I have taken possession of the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad. It might have escaped your notice, but at the official meeting between your Excel-